DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Miner's Phthisis.

ORDER NO. D. 9469-75—I. & C. 5-29-20, DATED 9TH APRIL 1931.

The Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Kolar, has suggested that it is desirable to include Pneumonokoniosis or Miner's Phthisis in the list of "Occupational Diseases" under schedule III of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation. The Senior Surgeon who was consulted on the subject has stated that it is one of the diseases peculiar to gold mining areas, that it has long been recognised as an occupational disease of the gold mining industry in South Africa and elsewhere and that it should be declared an "Occupational Disease." The Chief Inspector of Mines, who made a special study of occupational diseases incidental to gold mining, during his deputation to South Africa, has recommended that in addition to Pneumonokoniosis, two other diseases, *viz.*, Cyanide Rash and Mercury Poisoning might be brought under occupational diseases as contemplated in the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Regulation.

2. The question was discussed with the mining authorities of the Kolar Gold Fields and they consider it necessary that data should first be collected for proving or disproving the existence in the Kolar Gold Fields area of the abovementioned diseases before deciding the question of declaring them as "Occupational Diseases."

3. Government are pleased to accept the above suggestion and to direct that a Committee of medical men be constituted, whose function it will be to investigate and collect data in regard to the existence or otherwise of Pneumonokoniosis, Cyanide Rash and Mercury Poisoning in the Kolar Gold Fields and to submit their opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of declaring all or any of the abovementioned diseases, as "Occupational Diseases" under the Workmen's Compensation Regulation.

4. The following gentlemen will constitute the Committee:—

(1) Dr. C. Krishnaswamy Rao, Physician, Sri Krishnarajendra Hospital, Mysore (Chairman).

(2) Dr. L. P. Stokes, Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer of the Gold Mining Companies, Kolar Gold Fields.

(3) The District Medical Officer, Kolar Gold Fields.

The District Medical Officer will also serve as Secretary to the Committee.

5. The Committee is requested to submit their report before the close of June 1931.

6. The mining authorities are requested to afford all necessary facilities to the Committee in carrying out its work, particularly in the matter of taking radiograms of patients in their hospitals whenever necessary.

7. The Senior Surgeon is requested to issue suitable instructions to Dr. Krishnaswamy Rao and the District Medical Officer, Kolar Gold Fields, in regard to the programme of work to be followed. Dr. Krishnaswamy Rao may be permitted to visit the Kolar Gold Fields whenever the work of the Committee requires his presence there.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.